Dear Howard, 8/18/72

I had to be near Wasjington today and to talk to Lesar, so I called the CTIA office. He wasn't there so I talked to Bob Smith about two things.

He thought he or they had gotten the inventory in question from the Archives. I have the interest now reflected in my yesterday's letter to Gary. I asked him to get it, look at the cover page, and see if it doesn't have a notation in thelower left-hand corner. He got it, it does, and he volunteered that it was in what was copied, not added to the copy he has. It is, of course, my notation of when I got it from Rhoads, in response to my own individual request. Smith thought this strange and volunteered that he has never seen another copy in the CTIA office and that it was there when he forst got there, about 4/70.

I asked him to be sure it was a xerox, that what I'd given Bud as my lawyer and for my suit only was made on 3M paper, which has a fleur de lis pattern on the back. No question, it is a xerox. So, without going elsewhere to see what my lawyer was doing with my confidence and my work I now have two xeroxes at least and reason to expect a third, for when im returned the copy of my copy he said he had another.

I can only wonder how many copies Bud had xeroxed to paper his committee board with. It was cheaper for him to use his own Apeco machine then. Xeroxing then took as much time to take and retrieve as doing the work on his own Apeco.

Smith and Lesar both say they have made and distributed no copies and have made no copies of any individual pages.

I asked him how the Cyril thing was coming. He said he was just waiting for "the day of reckoning." I said I hoped it would turn out to be a somewhat different day. I asked him if Cyril had located any real experts (he got the point). He asked what did I mean. I said I understood everyone to believe it essential that Cyril be adequately and properly backgrounded for his examination and that, except for Howard and myself, the only one of whom I knew who had done any recent work was him. (And that was hardly up to what was in WW, let me add, in either fact or understanding, with much less of both, esp. the latter). I didn't say what he had told me late last year, that he was doing it for Cyril. Would Sylvia have flipped over that, which I am sure Cyril hid from her, that before he applied or discussed it with anyone he had Smith doing his "research"! I knew it then.

He got a bit defensive, wouldn't mention any names except to say that there would be a "group", indications inferred of some size. (And I don't care if you are one.) I said that if Cyril had to be backgrounded, it should be by people who knew what they were doing and who were up to date, not of the past. His next defensiveness was not presented that way. He said the more he thought about it the less backgrounding Cyril ought to have, that he should observe what he saw, not what he expected to see or had been told to, etc.

Need I remind you that I had leaned on Bud on just this two weeks ago? And that it is for them an entirely new position? And what does this do to what the "good conscience" boys felt impelled to do?

He assured me that the results would be available to everyone, which I took other than he intended. I told him I'd be pleasantly surprised to learn what I didn't and hadn't known for some time.

That is where it ended. Best,